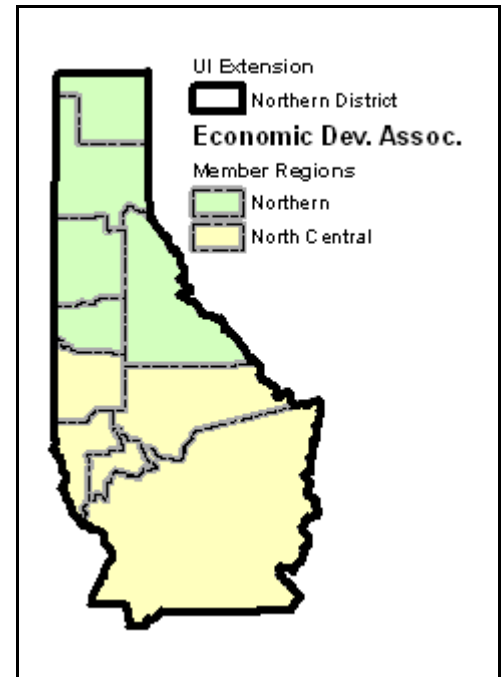


Regional Geospatial Resource Center Proposal – North Idaho

(1) Geographic Area Served / Represented

We propose adopting a consistent model taking advantage of existing Idaho Economic Development Association Member regions (<http://www.ieda.biz/Members/>) and University Extension District (<http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/find.asp>) through higher education centers for better leveraging state-level funding initiatives and infrastructures. North Idaho as used here encompasses the northern ten counties. It may be beneficial to explore this model state-wide.

| Economic Development Association Member Region | Extension Districts | University Center | Regional GIS Center Location |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| Northern | 1 | UI | Flexible organizational structure that builds upon existing expertise and locates resources at the most appropriate existing location (Ex.: CDA Tribe, UI CDA, county Extension offices). |
| North Central | 1 | UI | Flexible organizational structure that builds upon existing expertise and locates resources at the most appropriate existing location (Ex.: UI Moscow, LCSC, county Extension offices). |



(2) Participants and Organizations Included

We propose a coordinated partnership that draws on the expertise within our regional higher education institutions and federal, state, tribal, and local agencies. Participants will be responsive and committed to pulling in appropriate expertise related to the issue at hand. This proposal was developed after meetings in Moscow and Coeur d'Alene with representatives from Kootenai County, City of Hayden, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Nez Perce County, Clearwater County, and the University of Idaho.

(3) Proposed Physical Location

We propose a flexible organizational structure that builds upon existing resources and expertise and locates resources at the most appropriate existing location (Ex.: CDA Tribe, UI CDA & Moscow, county Extension offices). The Center will be complemented by virtual web-based resources leveraging the existing hardware and software of INSIDE Idaho to organize materials and announcements, and integrate advances in interactive video-conferencing. This will be a tool that think tank participants use to communicate both within the region and with the IGO and other coordinators around the state.

(4) Service/Resource Mix

- Grant administration for regional funding opportunities
- Representation responsibilities on relevant statewide committees
- Provide a regional forum for discussion, collaboration, training and organized representative participation in larger GIS community
- Facilitate implementation of, and monitor maintenance of, regional ISDI and geospatial programs and products by providing technical support for data/metadata creation and maintenance
- Provide data discovery, use, and dissemination by leveraging the power of geospatial web services

Staffing (phased in at various levels as sustainable financial resources are identified)

- Northern Center Geospatial Extension Coordinator (Grants, committee representation, training)
- Northern Center Technical Staff (data models, data standards, metadata, web services & applications)
- Graduate and undergraduate staff

(5) Local Champions

The University of Idaho has significant geospatial expertise (e.g. engineering, natural resources, geography and environmental sciences, business, Idaho Geological Survey) is governed by a land grant mission that encompasses an existing extension system across the region and state, and also houses the library and INSIDE Idaho. Via coordinated efforts of the USGS funded IdahoView program, NSF EPSCOR, and other federally funded cyberinfrastructure initiatives investments are underway at the UI to upgrade INSIDE to help maintain critical state and regional geospatial datasets including base orthoimagery. The UI is willing to be a leading team-member to assist in developing a north Idaho geospatial center that would be aimed at better coordination of many of the existing resources to help with training or to coordinate expertise for specific issue-related needs (e.g. regional fire status, weather and climate information, landslide or flood response). A geospatial outreach coordinator could continually interact with local governments, specific or dynamic regional associations and the University to enable two-way communication for both technology transfer and a better understanding of county and regional government needs.

North Idaho also includes active geospatial consortia such as the Kootenai GIS consortium, the Coeur d'Alene and Nez Perce Tribes, federal agency groups (BLM, FS, USGS), city and county units and economic development councils among others. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe has had an established and active geospatial group and is a national leader in use of geospatial technologies and datasets. Hence our proposed think tank could draw collectively on the resources available to the geospatial community in north Idaho and create awareness of resources that could be drawn on for both short and long-term applications that might encompass varying spatial extents (e.g. several counties, individual cities, northern Rockies) and thematic information. These geospatial groups along with the UI provide a rich framework and diverse expertise for local championing of a regional geospatial resource center.

(6) Ideas for Funding

Initially, we will leverage resources that are already in place. The University of Idaho is governed by a land grant mission that encompasses an existing extension system across the region and state. Significant investments have been made in INSIDE Idaho, and federal, state, local, and tribal agencies in the region. Via coordinated efforts of the USGS funded IdahoView program, NSF EPSCOR, and other federally funded cyberinfrastructure initiatives, investments are underway at the UI to upgrade INSIDE Idaho to help maintain critical state and regional geospatial datasets. Collaboration between the University of Idaho, the CDA Tribe, and local participants is underway through NSF-submitted grants related to climate and geospatial dataset development, long-term agricultural production, as well as a proposal for an urban long-term ecological site focused on the Coeur d'Alene corridor.

Funds are required to support a geospatial coordinator and technical staff as listed above. Some financial and leadership support must ideally come from the state, but we would expect to supplement these funds with other proposals and grant opportunities. North Idaho has many complementary resources in-place to ensure that contributed state funds would be well leveraged with local and federal grant funding.

Summary

The vision of a North Idaho Regional GIS Resource Center dovetails perfectly with the concepts, mechanisms, and direction outlined in the Idaho SDI strategic and business plans. It builds on the foundation of existing resources and recognizes that coordination must improve and expand, but also be flexible based on the issues that face our diverse entities that have many needs for framework datasets, and geospatial analysis tools, and expertise.

We believe the proposed model that builds on existing resources is one that decision-makers can understand and support.